

Trumbull County Health Department Procedure for Wild or Domestic Animal Exposures

1. Wild Animal Exposures:

- a) If the wild animal is acting sick, strange or unusual and it is necessary to kill the animal, **DO NOT shoot the animal in the head.** Put the animal on ice and call the Trumbull County Health Department.
- b) If there was **human contact** (person was bitten or scratched) with the wild animal and it is available for testing, kill the wild animal (do **NOT** shoot it in the head) and put the animal on ice. It is important to have the animal tested for Rabies. **Instruct the victim to follow up with their health care provider to have their wound evaluated.** Contact the Trumbull County Health Department to report the incident.
- c) If there is **human contact** (person was bitten or scratched) with the wild animal and it is **NOT** available for testing: **Instruct the victim that they will need to get the Post Exposure Rabies Treatment.** They will need to go to an Emergency Department to start the treatment.
- d) If the wild animal has had **contact with an owner's pet** and the wild animal is **NOT** available for testing, have the pet owner call their Veterinarian or the Trumbull County Health Department for quarantine instructions.

2. Dog or Cat Exposures:

- a) If it is necessary to kill the dog or cat and there was human contact (person was bitten or scratched), **DO NOT shoot the animal in the head.** Put the animal on ice and call the Trumbull County Health Department to report the incident. **Instruct the victim to follow up with their health care provider to have their wound evaluated.**
- b) If a person was bitten or scratched by a stray dog or cat and the animal is **NOT** available to be quarantined or tested: **Instruct the victim that they will need to get the Post Exposure Rabies Treatment.** They will need to go to an Emergency Department to start the treatment.
- c) If a person was bitten or scratched by a dog or cat that has an owner: Advise the owner **NOT** to kill or give their pet away and to call their Veterinarian or the Trumbull County Health Department for quarantine instructions. **Instruct the victim to follow up with their health care provider to have their wound evaluated.**

To report an encounter or for any questions contact **Trumbull County Health Department @ 330-675-2590; Ext. 3 Monday thru Friday 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; or if it's after hours AND it's an emergency use Ext 8 OR call 911.**